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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 18, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of the constitution, and the desire to try former regime members were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 18, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- [1A.](#) "The Iraqi Constitution and Another Incomplete Mission" (Editorial by Abdul Wahab Bader Khan - Iraq 4 All News - <http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10367>)

"The 'new' Iraq does not need a constitution that documents power-sharing among parties that emerged from occupation and invasion; it needs a simpler constitution that emphasizes the common factors shared by all components of society. Only this type of constitution would be a unifying factor for Iraq. In the current document, Iraq is mentioned repeatedly as a torn entity, reflecting the country's present more than its future. What is worse is that one of the powerful parties overlooks its responsibility to rebuild Iraq, and instead only acknowledges its narrow interests.

"Reality is stronger than any script. What is witnessed on the ground is stronger than all the discussions that took place during the months of the constitutional process. There is another constitution that has been established on the ground and it will be the one implemented-but without any referendum; it is the constitution that was formed during the governing council, the transitional government, and the following transitional government through militia-type thinking, through corruption, and through opening doors of chaos, which is welcomed by terrorists as a gift that permits further bloodshed.

"The referendum that was carried out is expected to yield a 'positive' result; it serves the American agenda at the desired time-without any delays. President Bush will be able to claim today or tomorrow that 'another victory' has been achieved in Iraq. But Americans are no longer in the mood to hail such triumphs. The only thing concerning them about the Iraqi constitution is the possibility of withdrawing troops. As for the rosy dream portrayed by their president of a quiet and clean occupation that provides the opportunity to export democracy: this dream has died with time.

"The only concern for us is Iraq and Iraqis. Have they actually taken a step towards stability? There is no doubt that a constitution is an essential step in the process of building a state, but what state? And what constitution? Since no agreement was reached, all that was hoped for through the constitution has been postponed.

"It will soon be clear that problems were not embedded within the constitution, but within the practices and implementations of scripts. These practices that were inspired by militias have been modified to become the basis of a state in which narrow interests prevail. I believe that fair 'distribution of wealth' will be a good example to demonstrate that all constitutional items are nothing more than writing in the sand."

- [1B.](#) "Constitution without Agreement" (Editorial by Hisham Al-Qorawi - Sawt Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=17610>)

"A number of analysts believe that the constitution supported by most of the National Assembly members will fail to achieve any of the Bush administration's significant goals, as this draft has failed to achieve the national

accord sought by different [factions] in Iraq.

"This assumption is not based on the content of the draft, but on reactions expressed by the main Iraqi factions, and especially the Sunni Arabs. It is true that the draft prevents the formation of an Islamic state that was feared by many; it is also true that the draft avoided glorifying Shiite clerics and provided Sunnis with a basis to prevent any type of Shiite or Kurdish suppression against them. But if the insurgency that almost drove Iraq to a state of paralysis were to end, then Sunnis, who form the basis of the insurgency, should view the constitution as a wise and tolerant document that guarantees them a safe home in Iraq.

"The fact is that most Sunnis see the constitution, in its current form, as a document that would tear Iraq apart and result in Iran taking over most of the southern region, thus impoverishing the Sunnis economically as Shiites and Kurds grow to dominate oil and gas resources. They also see the eradication of Ba'ath party members as an attempt to eliminate all Sunnis from the government and army. They believe that the U.S. was more intent on presenting the draft on time than addressing Sunni concerns, despite American efforts to convince Shiites and Kurds not to ignore Sunni reservations.

"Sunnis' basic concerns involve the formation of new federal regions that control natural resources and security forces; Sunnis might have trained themselves to accept a Kurdish region, but a Shiite southern region is unacceptable, especially given the high potential for new discoveries of oil and gas in the region. This would mean that any Shiite control would lead to their [Sunni] deprivation of an economic future. As for security forces, constitutional items allow the regions to form security forces [a security force would have jurisdiction within a governorate's borders]; it thus weakens any motivation to join national security forces. This would lead to the possibility of security forces in Sunni regions being composed of those insurgents who now carry weapons."

1C. "Everyone Who Says No to the Constitution Will Be Ashamed"

(Editorial by Saif Allah Ali - Sawt Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieufs.php?id=17586>)

"Yes to freedom and democracy, and yes to the other opinion. Humans are free; the mind is free; and opinion is free. How beautiful the word 'no' is when it is put in the right context, and how ugly it is if it is put in an inappropriate context. According to my basic information, the conflict between 'yes' and 'no' intensifies during elections due to conflicts among parties and movements [seeking] to gain authority, even at the expense of the people's hopes.

"They [parties and movements] deceive them by adopting programs that toy with people's emotions and win their confidence. With regard to voting, the draft constitution is genuine and it has guarantees for all spectrums of Iraqi people, ethnicities, and religions. So who voted against it? The writer Ahmed Al-Shemrai wrote in his articles about stupid Shiite donkeys; I add the dirty Sunni pigs-they voted against the constitution because they benefited from the fallen regime. They are sectarian or ignorant like Shiite donkeys.

"I understand Sunni pigs vote against the constitution because they are worse off, but I cannot understand how some Shiites reject the constitution when it guarantees all their rights, from which they were formerly deprived. Are there any donkeys more stupid than those? When those donkeys and pigs see the advancement and development of Iraq, they will be ashamed because they stand against the will and ambitions of Iraqi people."

1D. "This Is the Best Compensation for Iraqis"

(Editorial by Hussein Ali Ghalib - Sawt Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieufs.php?id=17616>)

"An Iraqi official mentioned that there is a program arranged by Iraqi and international experts that offers financial compensation and additional compensation for our people who suffered under the former regime due to bloody and gruesome crimes-a regime whose gloomy rule exceeded thirty years.

"In fact, this is a good and important program; no one can deny its importance. But if you ask any Iraqi citizen in or outside our home about the most important request, the response will be that the former regime members should be tried. Iraqis expected progress after the collapse of the former regime and the gradual demise of regime members and, on top of them, Saddam Hussein. But the followers of the former regime stole the pleasure of the regime's fall and

quickly returned to practice their criminal and destructive operations.

"The best compensation and service that could ever be offered to the victims of the former regime and to future generations who should live in peace and calm is to root out the followers of the former regime. They were all gathered under one name: Ba'athists. Now we see different names for them, such as liberation activists, defenders, and possessors of rights. According to Iraqis, all these names are the same: they are followers of the former regime."

KHALILZAD